



Dexter Pit – Community meeting #2

Presenters:

Andy Cao & Mark Brands

Staff:

Patrick Donohue, Kelly Davidson & Ruri Yampolsky

Introduction:

Patrick Donohue reviewed the status of design and overview of public process. The design team will present the current proposal then we will follow up with questions, answers and comments.

Presentation:

Update on project background, site concerns, limitations and opportunities.

The new proposal has shifted from dealing with the air space of the site, to something more focused on the ground plane and what is happening with the ecology of the wetland on site.

The site used to have a pond that is now the class four wetland and the hydrology of the wetland continues to change as the surrounding neighborhood evolves and water is likely diverted away from the site. The sculptures proposed will be “water drops” referencing the impact water has had on the evolution of the site. The sculptures will be fabricated of stainless steel with a skin of stainless mesh that will be powder coated in blue.

There is still no plan to remove the blackberries as the ongoing maintenance needed to stabilize the slope is not in the budget at this time.

The design uses a natural palette and avoids being organized to keep the feel of a natural setting.

Native plants will be used and run off will be used for irrigation.

A fence is being proposed around the wetland to reduce the amount of foot traffic into the wetland. It will be a low wire fence that will as transparent as possible.

The team has been working to create a design that holds onto the feeling of enclosure that the site has, but is open at the same time for security needs.

Q & A:

- The entrance to the site is dangerous for cars and pedestrians. The team is working with SDOT about safety in the intersection. Cross walk are being considered.
- I like both of the designs, but would like to know why the last one did not remain? The change in the artwork proposal was driven by budget, durability of materials and structural challenges. The current proposal is realistic for the given limitations of site and budget.
- What is the intended use of the space and why has the elevated walkway that cut into the slope disappeared? The walkway is not being pursued due to the cost impact and the view from higher on the hillside is not that substantial and creates privacy issues for those who live above it. The team decided instead to focus on the enclosure and quite feel of the space. The park is intended for passive use.
- What is being done to deal with the homeless population living on site? Creating visibility to the site will help as well as creating an entry that SPD can easily access for evening check ins. Material used to build shelters will be removed or less accessible. Encouraging activity at the site will help. There is no guarantee that homeless will vacate the site, but activating it should help.

- Provide more explanation about the art, specifically the scale, lighting and security. Each water drop will be a different size ranging in height from 12ft to 3ft. The lighting will be low voltage and is only meant create a glow effect. Not intended to light the parks at night. No other lighting will be provided.
- How was this meeting publicized? Postcards were mailed out as well as e-mails. Most attendees noted that they received post cards. Posters and a press release were also issued.
- Has Parks considered having a meeting on the site? We can consider it, but it is not standard practice.
- How will this proposal impact wildlife on the site? The wetland will be enhanced through this project so the expectation is that the wildlife will have increased or at least protected habitat.
- Can a pond be restored to the site? We can not dredge the wetland.
- Residents who overlook the site feel the artwork allows for the existing wildlife to be retained and that this proposal makes the best use of a difficult site. The slope was the biggest concern for stability and safety.
- There have been discussions about making use of the slope for trails or p-patches, however the budget does not allow for this at this time. Maybe the project needs to have a second stage project that can focus on concepts for the slope.
- What will the fence around the wetland look like? It will be no taller then waist high and will be as transparent as possible. Looking into a cable system.
- Is the artwork designed to remain in site if the pond returns to the site? Yes, the bases are designed for installation in a wetland and will be able to stay in place if standing water returns to the site.
- The native plantings behind the benches will be designed to gather run off water and feed it back into the wetland.
- There will be a mister installed in the wetland as part of the art concept, but it will also provide irrigation to the wetland.
- Irrigation will be needed to plant establishment and may be used to sustain the wetland in dry seasons.
- What plants from the site will stay? All trees will remain on site. The screen trees on SDOT property we hope to trim up, but will likely stay on site. Weeds will be cleared with the exception of the slope.
- Are we inviting people to enter at night and why is there no security lighting? The nighttime use of the park is intended to just be people passing by. There is no policy to light parks at night and opening up the site is the best that can be done for security.
- Nothing is being done to create an entry from the upper hillside. This was discussed and decided against as security to those who live next the site.
- How high will the path be? The path reaches 8ft, from the base. It is not high, but it will give you a different view of the art and provide space for walking and observation of the wetland.
- What's the lifespan of the new material proposed for the artwork? The new material will be very durable and will not corrode into the wetland. Vandalism may be a challenge, but any material would be at risk to some sort of vandalism.
- Gang activity may be a problem. Parks is aware of this issue; it is an issue for all parks sites.
- What is the annual maintenance budget for this park? Approximately \$12,800. Funding is in place up to 2012, and then will be replenished.
- Will there be an ADA drop off? Not likely, the team looked into it and it would likely make the site more dangerous to have loading and unloading taking place at intersection.

Next Steps:

- Public Art Advisory Committee review
- Parks Board review
- 3rd public meeting
- Construction Documents
- Bid process
- Construction estimated for completion this time next year.